2014

SC Annual District Report Card Summary

LAURENS 55 School District
Grades: PK-12   Enrollment: 6,070
Superintendent: Dr. Billy R. Strickland
Board Chair: Mrs. Susan Calhoun-Ware

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		ESEA/FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM	
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	ESEA Grade	Accountability Indicator
2014	Excellent	Good	N/A	N/A	C	N/A
2013	Average	Good	N/A	N/A	C	N/A
2012	Average	Excellent	N/A	N/A	B	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATING OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
10	4	11	0	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 04/27/2015. Schools with Students Like Ours with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

SC PASS

SC PASS	2014 Reading	2014 Math	2014 Science	2014 Social Studies	2014 Writing
	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above
District	71.1%	68.9%	68.0%	72.9%	73.9%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	67.8%	65.4%	64.0%	70.7%	70.9%
Average District	73.9%	72.3%	70.2%	75.9%	76.2%

SC PASS

SC PASS	2014 Reading	2014 Math	2014 Science	2014 Social Studies	2014 Writing
	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary
District	33.9%	28.4%	19.7%	29.8%	31.0%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	34.9%	28.4%	20.9%	30.5%	31.3%
Average District	42.4%	36.6%	26.6%	37.5%	38.6%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests	Passed 1 Subtest	Passed No Subtests
District	72.0%	19.5%	8.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	71.9%	17.6%	10.5%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2014 (%)

District	90.8%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	90.6%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	76.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	70.6%

On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

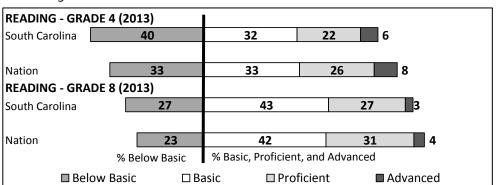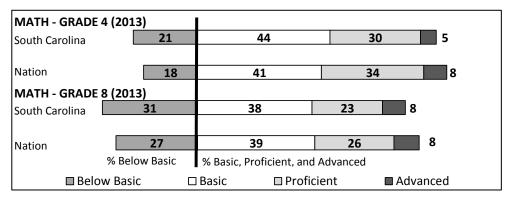|	
District	79.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	80.3%

** Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.
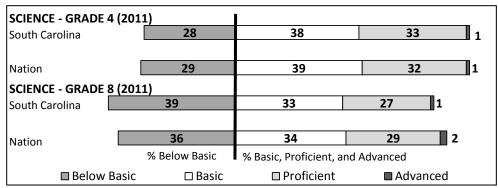
NAEP*

*Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level.

Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.

READING - GRADE 4 (2013)
South Carolina: 40 | 32 | 22 | 6
Nation: 33 | 33 | 26 | 8

READING - GRADE 8 (2013)
South Carolina: 27 | 43 | 27 | 3
Nation: 23 | 42 | 31 | 4

% Below Basic   % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

▨ Below Basic   ☐ Basic   ☐ Proficient   ■ Advanced

MATH - GRADE 4 (2013)
South Carolina: 21 | 44 | 30 | 5
Nation: 18 | 41 | 34 | 8

MATH - GRADE 8 (2013)
South Carolina: 31 | 38 | 23 | 8
Nation: 27 | 39 | 26 | 8

% Below Basic   % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

▨ Below Basic   ☐ Basic   ☐ Proficient   ■ Advanced

SCIENCE - GRADE 4 (2011)
South Carolina: 28 | 38 | 33 | 1
Nation: 29 | 39 | 32 | 1

SCIENCE - GRADE 8 (2011)
South Carolina: 39 | 33 | 27 | 1
Nation: 36 | 34 | 29 | 2

% Below Basic   % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

▨ Below Basic   ☐ Basic   ☐ Proficient   ■ Advanced

SC PERFORMANCE VISION

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

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Abbreviations Key

N/A-Not Applicable	**N/AV**-Not Available	**N/C**-Not Collected	**N/R**-Not Reported	**I/S**-Insufficient Sample	**TBD**-To Be Determined

LAURENS 55 School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n = 6,070)				
Retention Rate	2.5%	Down from 2.7%	2.5%	2.1%
Attendance Rate	95.9%	No change	95.9%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	11.4%	Down from 11.6%	11.2%	11.5%
With disabilities other than speech	16.7%	Up from 16.5%	13.9%	13.1%
Older than usual for grade	7.4%	Down from 8.0%	4.9%	4.6%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.3%	Up from 0.1%	0.5%	0.7%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	24.2%	Up from 15.1%	12.4%	15.7%
Successful on AP/IB exams	29.3%	Down from 36.5%	47.4%	51.6%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	29.8%	Up from 28.3%	30.8%	31.1%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	206	Up from 110	88	115
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	28	Down from 39	18	31
Annual dropout rate	4.1%	Down from 4.2%	2.3%	2.3%
Teachers (n = 356)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	56.7%	Down from 56.8%	61.2%	60.4%
Continuing contract teachers	78.9%	Up from 78.3%	78.9%	79.6%
Teachers returning from previous year	91.5%	Down from 91.9%	90.0%	90.1%
Teacher attendance rate	95.3%	Up from 94.9%	94.9%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	$45,701	Down 0.6%	$46,545	$47,169
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.0%	No change	0.4%	0.1%
Classes not taught by higly qualified teachers	5.0%	Up from 0.8%	5.0%	4.2%
Professional development days/teacher	17.6 days	Up from 13.4 days	12.0 days	11.1 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	5.0	Up from 4.0	4.5	5.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.8 to 1	Down from 23.7 to 1	20.3 to 1	20.7 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.4%	No change	89.4%	90.0%
Dollars spent per pupil**	$8,645	Up 7.1%	$9,275	$9,403
Percent expenditures for teacher salaries**	53.8%	Down from 54.0%	51.7%	52.6%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.4%	Down from 57.0%	53.6%	55.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	11	No change	7	9
Portable classrooms	0.8%	Down from 1.3%	0.8%	0.8%
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	11.0	No change	6.0	9.0
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No change	100.0%	100.0%
Average administrator salary	$84,871	Up 1.1%	$80,133	$79,777
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
ESEA composite index score	75.4	Down from 75.6	77.8	79.5

* Length of contract = 185+ days.   **Prior year audited financial data available.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES STUDENT PERFORMANCE

	SC PASS	HSAP	End-of-Course Tests
Passage Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	ESEA Grade
There are no charter schools in this district.			

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Laurens County School District 55 continues to provide excellent educational opportunities for all students. The district's success would not be possible without the support of its stakeholders. The community, board of trustees, and district employees strive to provide an environment in which each student can reach his/her maximum potential.

Seven schools were recently honored as Palmetto Gold and Silver winners by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee. These awards recognize exceptional academic performance and progress in closing achievement gaps.

Waterloo Elementary School received the 2013 South Carolina Title I Distinguished School award for overall student achievement.

The district dropout rate has decreased, and the graduation rate has increased. The graduating class of 2014 earned in excess of $3.2 million in scholarship funds.

The student judiciary court implemented this year is helping to eliminate excessive truancy and tardies throughout the district.

The district continues to focus attention on safety plans and security measures at all schools. Safety of the students and personnel remains the number one priority in Laurens School District 55. In addition to new security equipment, the district has increased the number of school resource officers (SROs).

The public education system has faced difficult economic times during the last several years. District 55 has a long history of applying for and receiving grant funds that help offset the financial hardships and to enhance learning opportunities for students and staff. During 2013-2014, grant funds in excess of $500,000 provided academic support and enrichment activities for students, summer learning opportunities for students and staff, and enhancements in technology and instruction for the fine arts program.

District 55 has received a portion of a $6.8 million Youth Career Connect Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The Carolina Alliance for Technology grant will provide hands-on training and opportunities to connect student learning to the real world.

Please continue to support the efforts of District 55's quest for excellence.

Billy R. Strickland, Superintendent